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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/518,502	06/22/2005	Motoki Tsunokawa	261889US6PCT	7858
22850	7590	11/10/2008	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				INGVOLDSTAD, BENNETT
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2427				
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/10/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/518,502	TSUNOKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Bennett Ingvoldstad	2427	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2008.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 13-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 13-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 25 August 2008 have been fully considered but are not persuasive. Knudson teaches the new limitations for claims 13-15. See the respective rejections.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: "said first reception means" lacks proper antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

4. Applicant refers to paragraph [0114] as providing support for the amendments. Remarks/Arguments pg. 4. The examiner has interpreted "paragraph [0114]" as referring to the so-labeled paragraph in US Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0240597 A1. This paragraph refers to steps illustrated by figure 13, so the amended claims are interpreted with respect to figure 13.

5. Claim 14 describes a first reception means for receiving “a file containing information about said characteristic word from said recording and playback apparatus”. However, referring to Figure 13, step S31, the characteristic word file is transmitted **from** a server 2 **to** a recording and playback apparatus 3. The specification provides no support for receiving the file **from** a recording and playback apparatus. Therefore, the claim contains new matter.

6. Claim 16 describes “controlling reception of a file containing information about a characteristic word representing a characteristic of a television program”. Referring to Figure 13, step S31, the characteristic word file is transmitted **from** a server 2 **to** a recording and playback apparatus 3. Therefore, since claim 16 describes receiving a characteristic word file, the specification only provides support for the computer program of claim 16 being executed by the recording and playback apparatus 3 of Figure 13.

7. However, the claim goes on to describe “controlling transmission of information... to a recording and playback apparatus”. The specification provides no support for transmitting information from a recording and playback apparatus to a recording and playback apparatus. Therefore, the claim contains new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent

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granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 13-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Knudson (US 2006/0095937).

Knudson teaches:

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

a first device (user equipment) configured to receive a file containing information about a characteristic word representing a characteristic of a television program (user equipment receives from the headend a list of categories by which television program are classified [0053]);

an input device (remote control) configured to allow a user to select an intended characteristic word from characteristic words contained in said file (remote control 42 [Fig 1]for selecting displayed categories [0056]);

a device (server) configured to transmit information about a characteristic word selected by said user to a recording and playback apparatus (a server with a database 24 performs a search of program guide information and transmits the search results back to the user equipment [0062]; user equipment may be a recording and playback apparatus [0040]); and

a second device (television) configured to receive television program information about a television program corresponding to said selected

characteristic word transmitted from said recording and playback apparatus as a result of transmitting information about said selected characteristic word (a television 40 [Fig 1] displays the search results for the user [0063]).

Knudson teaches:

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 13,

wherein [a] first reception means receives a file containing information about said characteristic word from said recording and playback apparatus (a server with database 24 receives a search file from user equipment [0062]; user equipment may be a recording and playback apparatus [0040])

Knudson teaches:

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An information processing method comprising:

controlling reception of a file containing information about a characteristic word representing a characteristic of a television program (user equipment receives from the headend a list of categories by which television program are classified [0053]);

allowing a user to select an intended characteristic word from characteristic words contained in said file (selecting a category from the list [0056]);

controlling transmission of information about a characteristic word selected by said user to a recording and playback apparatus (a server with a database 24 performs a search of program guide information and transmits the search results back to the user equipment [0062]; user equipment may be a recording and playback apparatus [0040]); and

controlling reception of television program information about a television program corresponding to said selected characteristic word transmitted from said recording and playback apparatus as a result of transmitting information about said selected characteristic word (user equipment receives search results after transmitting a search query comprising a characteristic word to a server with database 24 [0062]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson (US 2006/0095937) in view of Patel (US 2004/0078829).

Knudson teaches:

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program to allow a computer to perform:

controlling reception of a file containing information about a characteristic word representing a characteristic of a television program (user equipment receives from the headend a list of categories by which television program are classified [0053]);

allowing a user to select an intended characteristic word from characteristic words contained in said file (selecting a category from the list [0056]);

controlling transmission of information about a characteristic word selected by said user to [an] apparatus (search information comprising a characteristic word is transmitted to server with database 24 for performing the search [0063]); and

controlling reception of television program information about a television program corresponding to said selected characteristic word transmitted from said recording and playback apparatus as a result of transmitting information about said selected characteristic word (receiving the search results from the server [0063]).

Knudson does not teach that the headend server to which information about a characteristic word is transmitted is a recording and playback apparatus.

Patel teaches that a headend may be a recording and playback apparatus [0015].

It would have been obvious to have modified Knudson's headend to have been a recording and playback apparatus for the purpose of providing video on demand [Patel 0015].

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bennett Ingvoldstad whose telephone number is (571)270-3431. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Beliveau can be reached on (571) 272-7343. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bennett Ingvoldstad/
Examiner, Art Unit 2427

/Scott Beliveau/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2427